

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tape drive apparatus comprising:  
tape-oriented recording and/or reproducing means  
for recording and/or reproducing information to and/or  
from a magnetic tape housed in a tape cassette furnished  
as a recording medium, said tape cassette being loaded in  
the apparatus;

memory accessing means for accessing a memory which  
is incorporated in said tape cassette furnished as said  
recording medium and which at least holds management  
information for write and/or read operations to and/or  
from said magnetic tape, said memory accessing means  
writing and/or reading information to and/or from said  
memory following the accessing;

memory-oriented information acquiring means for  
acquiring identification information from said memory  
through an access operation thereto performed by said  
memory accessing means, said identification information  
being stored in said memory as part of said management  
information and assigned uniquely to said tape cassette  
so as to distinguish said tape cassette from other tape  
cassettes;

tape-oriented information acquiring means for  
acquiring identification information from said magnetic

tape through an access operation thereto performed by said tape-oriented recording and/or reproducing means, said identification information being recorded in a predetermined area on said magnetic tape and supposed to be the same in content as the memory-stored identification information;

determining means for determining whether there is a match between said memory-stored identification information acquired by said memory-oriented information acquiring means on the one hand and the tape-stored identification information acquired by said tape-oriented information acquiring means on the other hand; and

operation controlling means for controlling the recording and/or reproduction of information to and/or from said recording medium by controlling the operation of said tape-oriented recording and/or reproducing means at least in accordance with a result of the determination made by said determining means.

2. A recording and/or reproducing method for use with a tape drive apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

recording and/or reproducing information to and/or from a magnetic tape housed in a tape cassette furnished as a recording medium, said tape cassette being loaded in

the apparatus;

accessing a memory which is incorporated in said tape cassette furnished as said recording medium and which at least holds management information for write and/or read operations to and/or from said magnetic tape, said memory accessing step writing and/or reading information to and/or from said memory following the accessing;

acquiring from said memory identification information which is stored in said memory as part of said management information and assigned uniquely to said tape cassette so as to distinguish said tape cassette from other tape cassettes;

acquiring from said magnetic tape identification information which is recorded in a predetermined area on said magnetic tape and supposed to be the same in content as the memory-stored identification information;

determining whether there is a match between said memory-stored identification information acquired in the memory-oriented information acquiring step on the one hand and the tape-stored identification information acquired in the tape-oriented information acquiring step on the other hand; and

controlling the recording and/or reproduction of

information to and/or from said recording medium at least in accordance with a result of the determination made in said determining step.